

## **Fund Informal Grandparent Carers – keep families together**

Dear

I am a resident of \_\_\_\_\_, one of your constituents and ask that you support Grandcarers SA campaign to seek financial support for informal Grandparent Carers.

Grandcarers SA is the leading state organisation advocating on behalf of, and providing support services to, Informal Kinship Carers.

Informal Kinship carers are full time carers of children, but are not currently recognised as such as they have no formal legal or statutory recognition of their role. They accept the same carer responsibilities and financial burden as Formal Kinship and Foster Carers in providing a safe and nurturing environment for children, but without Kinship Carer allowances.

Grandparent carers:

- play a vital role in keeping children out of the overburdened Foster Care and Child Protection systems
- ensure children remain connected to their families and heritage, enabling them to lead fulfilling lives.
- need financial support as most are living below the poverty line and receive no carer allowances to cover the cost of raising children
- are more likely to be female, single, caring for two or more children and have an average age of 65
- suffer negative health impacts including grief, loss, trauma and shame
- Struggle to subsist on a pension, find paid work or secure a regular income.

Grandcarers SA are now advocating for the state government to take a leading role in providing much needed financial support to informal grandparent carers. Currently Western Australia is the only State/Territory government willing to provide financial support for these ignored and unrecognised carers. Please see: <https://www.wanslea.org.au/programs/grandcare>

I ask that you support their campaign.

Your sincerely